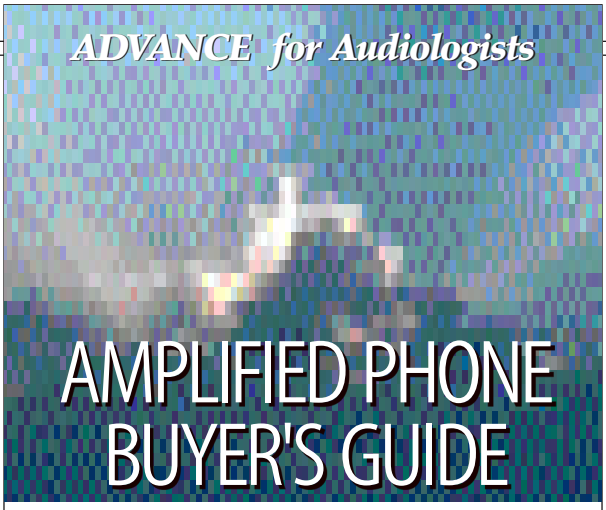


AMPLIFIED PHONE BUYER'S GUIDE

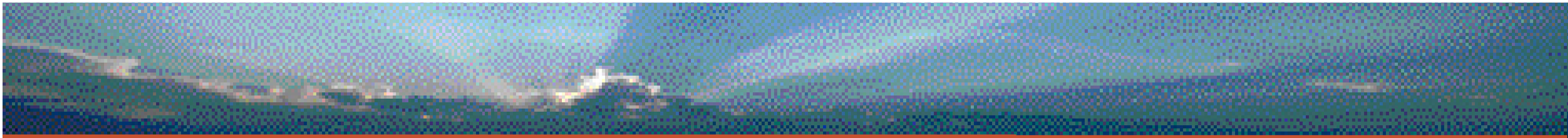
Amplified telephones are a very important and relatively inexpensive communication solution to offer to patients. Numerous references indicate that a person's ability to communicate via telephone is crucial not only for personal needs, but for business as well as safety and emergency issues.

In "Making Critical Connections" on page 76 of this issue, authors Linda Parmiter-Jacobs, MA, CCC-A, and Carol Jared-Brown, MS, CCC-A, note that phones are the top seller in their assistive listening device center. To point out the importance of phone communication, they describe a hearing patient who could no longer use a phone, but had elected not to use assistive equipment. When the patient's husband suffered a heart attack at home, she was unable to hear the 911 operator's instructions for his medical needs. Luckily, emergency personnel were able to save the man's life and get him to a hospital, where the wife then had to remain for several days—if she had remained at home, she would not have been able to have any phone communication regarding her husband's condition.

Therefore, it is in a patient's best interest to be informed about all amplification options. Many audiologists also feel that helping their patients to acquire the proper assistive equipment is one of the best services they can provide. At the Heartspring Hearing Center in Wichita, KS, Ms. Parmiter-Jacobs and Ms. Jared Brown help patients by identifying their needs, selecting the best devices, and even connecting them to financial assistance programs when necessary.

There are many different amplified telephones available. Your ALD provider can help you choose the right telephones to display and sell in your office.

In the following Amplified Telephone Buyer's Guide, seven manufacturers and distributors share information about their three top-selling amplified phones. ADVANCE has compared features and specifications and listed contact information for each company. We hope that you will find this guide helpful in making equipment decisions.



AMPLIFIED PHONE BUYER'S GUIDE

Company Name	Name of Product	Most Amazing/ Unique Feature	Needs Electrical Outlet	Phone Dimensions	Color Options		Price	Alerting Feature	Encounter Feedback	Caller Id	Vol. Control/ Amplification	Save Vol. Setting	Speed Dial	One-Button Emergency Call	Loud Adjustable Ringer	Tone/Frequency Control	2.5mm Headset Jack	3.5mm Neckloop/ Audio Headsets	Battery Backup	Speakerphone	Large No. Key Pad	Wall/Desk Mountable	1-Yr. Warranty	Technical Support Line
			Features and Specifications																					
Clarity, a division of Plantronics Inc. 800-426-3738 *www.clarityproducts.com*	C4220	Patented Digital Clarity Power making calls not only louder but clearer	Yes	Base: 6″W x 3.125″H x 7″D Handset: 7.25″L x 1.75″H x 2.325″W	No		$199.95	Shaker, Light	No	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	C4230	5.8 GHz transmission in both directions for greater freedom to roam during conversations	Yes	Base: 8.5″W x 4.75″H x 7″D Handset: 7.25″L x 1.75″H x 2.325″W	No		$269.95	Shaker, Light	No	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Clarity Professional XL50	First corded amplified phone to bring a true 60dB of gain at 118dB SPL together with multiband compression, sidetone echo cancellation, and active noise reduction	Yes	7″W x 3″H x 9.5″D	No		$159.95	Shaker, Light	No		■		■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■	■	■
ClearSounds Communications 800-965-9043 *www.clearsounds.com*	ClearSounds TALK 500	Talking Caller ID, Talking Phone Book and Talking Pre-Dialing Numbers	Yes	6.75″H x 7″W x 2.5″D	White		$119.95	Light	No, T-coil Compatible	■	■	■	■		Up to 85dB	■			■	■	■	■	■	■
	ClearSounds CSC50 UltraClear Sound Shaping Telephone with Caller ID	Complete low to high tone maintenance	Yes	10.5″H x 8″W x 2″D	Charcoal or Off-White		$159.95	Shaker (optional), Strobe Light	No, T-coil Compatible	■	■	■	■	■	Up to 95dB	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	2-yr.	■
	ClearSounds CSC50 ER UltraClear Sound Shaping Emergency Connect Telephone	Summons help in case of an emergency by pressing the remote wrist band up to 80 ft. away	Yes	10.5″H x 8″W x 2″D	Comes only in Silver/ Black		$199.95	Shaker (optional), Strobe Light	No, T-coil Compatible	■	■	■	■	■	Up to 95dB	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Harris Communications 800-825-6758 *www.harriscomm.com*	TeleTalker Amplified Phone	Up to 55dB HF gain	Yes	2.2″D x 8.9″H x 7.6″W	No		$149.00	Light	No		■				■	■		■			■	■	5-yr.	■
	XL50 Clarity Professional Model	Maximum amplification up to 60dB	Yes	7″W x 3.25″H x 9.5″D	No		$159.95	Light. (Shaker is available separately)	No		■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■	■	■
	Panasonic TG2386B Cordless with Answering Machine	Quality sound reception in a phone with talking Caller ID, speakerphone and answering system	Yes	3-11/32″H x 6-7/8″W x 7-7/8″D	No		$199.95	Light	No	■	■		■		■		■			■	■	■	■	■
HITEC 800-288-8303 *www.hitec.com*	ClearSounds A50 UltraClear Sound Shaping Expandable Cordless Telephone	Expandable system up to two additional amplified handsets.	Yes	Handset: 6″H x 2.25″W x 1″D Base: 5.5″H x 4″W x 2.5″D	Silver		$179.95	Optional Shaker, Light (Plus vibrating handset)	No, T-coil Compatible	■	■	■	■ (through phone-book)		■	■	■				■	Desk	■	■
	ClearSounds CST25 Impressions Sight and Sound-Enhanced Speakerphone	Large 7.4 sq. inch LCD display making it easier to see the name and/or number of the person calling	Yes	8.1″H x 8.5″W x 2″D	White		$99.95	Light	No, T-coil Compatible	■	■	■	■		Up to 85dB					■	■	■	■	■
	ClearSounds CID 400	New design	Yes	6.75″H x 7″W x 2.5″D	White		New	Light	No, T-coil Compatible	■	■	■	■		Up to 85dB	■			■	■	■	■	■	■

AMPLIFIED PHONE BUYER'S GUIDE

(Continued)

Company Name	Name of Product	Most Amazing/ Unique Feature	Needs Electrical Outlet	Phone Dimensions	Color Options		Price	Alerting Feature	Encounter Feedback	Caller Id	Vol. Control/ Amplification	Save Vol. Setting	Speed Dial	One-Button Emergency Call	Loud Adjustable Ringer	Tone/Frequency Control	2.5mm Headset Jack	3.5mm Neckloop/ Audio Headsets	Battery Backup	Speakerphone	Large No. Key Pad	Wall/Desk Mountable	1-Yr. Warranty	Technical Support Line
			Features and Specifications																					
Krown Mfg. Inc./ Compu-TTY Inc. 817-738-2485 *www.krownmfg.com* or *www.computty.com*	Expandable Amplified Cordless Phone	Incoming volume is increased by 200 times and the base will expand to accommodate four headsets.	Yes	N/A	No		$179.95	Light	No	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■	■
	StarPlus-45	StarPlus-45 amplifies incoming voice by 200 times	Yes	N/A	No		$159.95	Light	No	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	The Equalizer	With the Equalizer, telephone line power alone will keep the incoming voice at 40+dB, even with a loss of electricity	Yes	N/A	No		$64.95	Light	No		■	■	■	■	■	■					■	■	■	■
Ultratec Inc. 800-482-2424 *www.ultratec.com*	CapTel™ The Captioned Telephone	Word-for-word captions of everything the caller says	No	8.1" x 9.5" x 2.75"	No		N/A	No	No	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■
	CrystalTone™ Amplified Telephone	Amplification	No	8.1" x 9.5" x 2.75"	No		N/A	Light	No		■	■	■	■	■	■		■			■	■	■	■
	CrystalTone™ Plus	50dB amplification	Yes	8.1" x 9.5" x 2.75"	No		N/A	Light	No		■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Williams Sound Corp. 800-843-3544 *www.williamssound.com*	TeleTalker	55dB, 5-year warranty and most output in the market	Yes	2.2"D x 8.9"H x 7.6"W	No		$149.00	Light	No		■	■			■	■		■			■	■	5 yr.	■
	PhoneMax	5-year warranty	No	2.2"D x 8.9"H x 7.6"W	No		$79.00	No	No		■	■			■	■					■	■	5 yr.	■

Additional Company and Product Information

Clarity

Clarity is a leading supplier of lifestyle solutions to help people remain connected to each other and the world around them. From amplified telephones to wireless TV sound amplifiers, and everything in between, Clarity aims to "Amplify Your Life" with every product it provides.

The C4220 provides a super loud speakerphone, while the base of the C4230 has an amplified speakerphone with a built-in digital answering machine. The C4230 machine allows a user to slow down message playback for easier understanding of received messages.

The Clarity Professional XL50 is ideal for those who experience both high- and low-frequency hearing loss, as well as those who need the additional benefits of patented Digital Clarity Power (DCP) technology. The XL50 also has been upgraded without any increase in the suggested retail price of the phone.

ClearSounds Communications

ClearSounds Communications is a leading manufacturer of cutting-edge assistive communication devices. ClearSounds' successes can be attributed to the passion it shares for helping customers experience a life rich in conversation.

The TALK 500 has amplification up to 38dB and flexible tone control. While the CSC50 has amplification adjustable up to 50dB, 12dB outgoing voice amplification and there is a separate volume control for the speakerphone. Also, the CSC50 keypad has backlit numbers. The CSC50 ER has amplification adjustable up to 50dB, 12dB outgoing voice amplification and complete low to high tone maintenance. The keypad also is backlit.

Harris Communications

A popular phone because it has good amplification and is very basic, the TeleTalker amplified phone is a good choice for a customer who is confused by too many features. Also, the 5-year warranty is a big plus.

The XL50 Clarity Professional has four tone settings with DCP™, which provides clearer conversations and intelligent amplification. Smart Plex technology (a full duplex phone with minimal mic attenuation). The XL50 also can be used with a bed shaker or lamp flasher for notification purposes.

A feature-rich phone with talking Caller ID, the Panasonic TG2386B has a talking keypad and talking Caller ID list. A digital answering system is built into the phone with SlowTalk™ message playback for better listening. The TG2386B also is amplified with Panasonic's Voice Enhancer Technology.

HITEC

For 25+ years, HITEC has offered innovative product solutions that focus on everyday communication needs, and its dealer programs provide unique business opportunities for audiologists. Moreover, the company offers the ClearSounds A50 phone with amplification up to 50dB and complete low to high tone maintenance.

The ClearSounds CST25 phone has amplification up to 25dB and it is ideal for patients with a mild hearing loss and/or vision loss. The CID 400 has amplification up to 38dB and flexible tone control.

Krown Mfg. Inc.

Krown Mfg. Inc. is a leading 'deaf-owned' developer/manufacturer of a complete product line of TTYs, amplified telephones, signaling devices, alarm clocks and other assistive communication devices for the deaf and hard of hearing communities.

Ultratec Inc.

Ultratec is a leading manufacturer of text telecommunications equipment for people with hearing loss, including text telephones, amplified telephones and captioned telephones.

The CrystalTone amplified telephone has unique CrystalTone control for maximum clarity. Additionally, the CrystalTone Plus was rated most powerful by consumers.

Williams Sound Corp.

Williams Sound has been "Helping People Hear" for over 30 years. The company proudly offers the broadest range of hearing assistance technology and service to customers worldwide. The TeleTalker is adjustable to indicate when amplify mode is on or off for non-hard-of-hearing users, and operates as a regular telephone when the power is off.